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2 September 1949

MEMORANDUM

FOR:

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SUBJECT: Planning Staff Paper re Operation FIEND

1. State is sending forward a telegram, the draft for which was provided by CPP, to Kennan to offset the effect of last Sunday's OPC message to Rome. Mr. Cannon's instructions will go before the Planning Staff today and presumably will be approved. The attached memorandum is a copy of the Planning Staff paper. Please note that the program outlined in this paper has not yet been approved by Mr. Acheson.

2. In reply to the three questions put to the Department of State by the British Embassy regarding Operation FIEND, as follows:

(1) Does the State Department consider that Italy and Greece would have very grave political disadvantages that would prejudice Operation?

(2) Does the State Department have any political objections to the use of Malta for the entire Operation?

(3) Despite the fact that answer to (2) above will probably be in the negative, and since State is probably for Malta and assuming the answer is "yes" to (1), does the State Department think Cyrenaica should be reconsidered? If so, do they suggest that Mr. Acheson should discuss this matter personally with Mr. Bevin while he is here?

3. The Department of State replied firmly: (1) that they objected firmly to the use of Greece or Italy; (2) they would accept Malta; (3) they recommended re consideration by Bevin of Cyrenaica with the suggestion that, if Mr. Bevin refused to change his decision, Mr. Acheson might be requested to speak to him.

4. There is no objection to any or all of the members of the Albanian Executive Committee making a brief visit to the United States at this time.

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